

Appl. No. : **09/283,120**
Filed : **March 31, 1999**

REMARKS

Claims 54-57 are pending. Claims 1-53 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated the allowability of Claims 53 and 54 if rewritten in independent form. Applicants note that Claim 53 is a multiple dependent claim that depends on Claims 38, 39, or 40. As a consequence of this multiple-dependency, in order to rewrite Claim 53 in independent form, Applicants were required to split Claim 53 into three claims. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled Claim 53 without prejudice or disclaimer and have substituted new Claims 55-57. New Claim 55 is equivalent to Claim 53 as dependent on Claim 38 and is rewritten in independent form. New Claim 56 is equivalent to Claim 53 as dependent on Claim 39 and depends on allowable Claim 55. New Claim 57 is equivalent to Claim 53 as dependent on Claim 40 and is rewritten in independent form. As new Claims 55-57 stand in the place of Claim 53, there has been no change in the scope of the claims as a result of this amendment.

Claim 54 is a dependent claim that originally depended on Claim 53. Since new Claims 55-57 stand in the place of Claim 53, Applicants have amended Claim 54 to multiply depend on new Claims 55-57. The scope of Claim 54 is unchanged by this amendment.

Applicants have rewritten the allowable claims in independent form or to depend on an allowable independent claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 54-57 are allowable and respectfully requests their allowance.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-53 without prejudice or disclaimer for the sole purpose of expediting the issuance and enforceability of the allowable Claims 54-57. Applicants hereby reserve the right to present any of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

In light of the allowability of all pending Claims 54-57, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 7/28/2004

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